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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Thomas Thoröe SCHERB et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No. : 09/769,464

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : January 26, 2001

For : MACHINE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A TISSUE WEB

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a European Search Report dated September 28, 2001 conducted in European Patent Application No. 00127612.0-2314, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

(1) International Publication No. WO 96/35018, published November 7, 1996, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the Examiner noted the Abstract, claims 8, 13, and 15, page 7, lines 21 - 30 and Figure 1 as relevant to claims 1 - 7 and 11 - 17 of the European application. The Examiner also cited the document as a "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category). In particular, the Examiner noted page 9, line 27 - page 10, line 5, and figure 5, as relevant to claim 8



of the European application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,203,663 B1 issued to Kamps et al. on March 20, 2001, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document; and

(2) U.S. Patent No. 5,654,076 issued to Trokhan et al. on August 5, 1997, as an "X" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted the Abstract, column 13, lines 11-44, and Figures 4-6 as relevant to claims 1 - 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 15, and 17 of the European application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit the following U.S. Patents which are identified by the Annex to the Search Report as U.S. Patent family members of the above-cited document: U.S. Patent No. 5,534,326 issued to Trokhan et al. on July 9, 1996; U.S. Patent No. 6,136,146 issued to Phan et al. on October 24, 2000; and U.S. Patent No. 5,527,428 issued to Trokhan et al. on June 18, 1996; and

(3) U.S. Patent No. 3,322,617 issued to Osborne on May 30, 1967, as an "X" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted column 3, line 34 - column 4, line 24, and figures 1-3 as relevant to claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 15-17 of the European application; and

(4) German Patent No. 43 27 601 C1 published July 17, 1983 (January 5, 1995, as an "X" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted the Abstract, and the figures as relevant to claim 8 of the European application. For the Examiners convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,517,714 issued to Kotitschke on May 21, 1996, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document; and

(5) German Patent Application No. 197 32 879 A1, published February 4, 1999, as an "A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention). In

particular, the Examiner noted the Abstract, Claims and Figures as relevant to claims 1 and 9 of the European application. For the Examiners convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of International Application No. WO 99/06629 published February 11, 1999 which contains an English language Abstract.

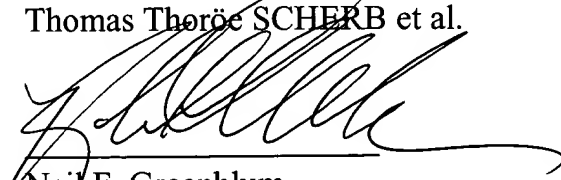
Copies of the above-listed documents are enclosed (including a copy of the European Search Report) as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicants note that while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the date of filing, Applicants have not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).


However, if the first action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any question or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Thoröc SCHERB et al.



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October 23, 2001
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